



Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish,
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ELEOCHARIS ROSTELLATA BEAKED SPIKERUSH

Beaked Spikerush is a grass-like perennial with stems that are 40-100 cm long, 1-2 mm wide, and clustered on a rootstock. All leaves occur on the lower stems and are reduced to sheathing scales, making the plants appear leafless. Longer stems arch over and root at the tips, forming new plants. The flowers are composed of ca. 6 bristles subtended by a blunt, lance-shaped, brownish scale that is 3-5 mm long and has a pale midrib. There are 3 stamens. 10-20 flowers are spirally arranged in a solitary, cone-like spike, 8-13 mm long, at the tip of the stem. The achene is green to brown, egg-shaped, 3-sided seed, 2-3 mm long and tapers to a prominent beak. Flowering in July, mature fruit in July-August.

The long-pointed, round beak tip of the achene is continuous with the body, unlike the notched base of the more common *ELEOCHARIS PALUSTRIS* and the short beak tip of *E. TENUIS* set in a dish like depression at the top of the achene. The stems of *E. ROSTELLATA* usually root at the tips, a feature that is apparent in walking through it.